

IL 83 & IL 137 Study

Virtual Public Outreach Event Summary (In place of Public Meeting #3)

June 25th, 2020 through July 16th, 2020

Overview

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) hosted a Virtual Public Outreach for the Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Study (Phase I) for the improvement of Illinois Route 83/137 in Lake County. Due to COVID-19 uncertainties and the safety of the stakeholders, instead of hosting a regular Public Meeting (Public Meeting #3), IDOT shared details on the project and encouraged public participation from June 25th to July 16th, 2020 through a new interactive website.

The new interactive website featured a four (4) step interactive process. The first step allowed attendees to virtually sign in and provide the project team with their contact information. The second step sent attendees to a page containing a brief overview of the project and a project presentation video. The third step sent attendees to an interactive map where they could drop pinned comments along the project corridor. The fourth and final step provided attendees an opportunity to make any additional comments. The new interactive website also included contact information for the project team and a link to the IDOT project website.

The interactive map featured an image of the preferred alternative overlaying a Google Maps style image of the project region. The map included proposed pedestrian accommodations and environmental features such as floodplains, parks, and wetlands. Three-dimensional renderings of the typical sections were also included in a side panel along the corresponding section of the project.

A display ad was published in the June 25th, 2020 and July 2nd, 2020 editions of the Lake County Journal newspaper. In addition, over 3,000 newsletters were distributed to the public within the project study area. The Department is very pleased with the participation of this creative outreach event.

The new interactive website had over **2,300** unique visitors with **79** people signing into the virtual meeting. There were over **270** public comments with a total of **250** comments received from the virtual public meeting, with an additional **18** comments received through the project website, and **1** letter sent to the IDOT District One office.

Comments

Attendees had multiple ways to provide their comments: Fill out an on-line comment form on the interactive website; Provide comments on Interactive Map; Fill out an on-line comment form on the IDOT Project Website; Email the IL 83/137 Project email; and send formal letters sent directly to IDOT. The following summarizes what was identified as the most important within the study area:

Corridor Improvements:

- Additional through lanes
- Intersection considerations
- Roundabouts
- Access Management
- Median Treatments
- Accessibility of emergency vehicles
- Railroad crossings

Bicycle & Pedestrian:

- Multi-modal opportunities
- Bicycle & Pedestrian accommodations
- Limits of pedestrian facilities



- Pedestrian safety
- Additional crosswalks

Drainage:

- Improve drainage
- Reduce flooding

Right-of-Way:

- Prioritization of land to be purchased

Environmental:

- Address environmental impacts

Noise:

- Measures to counter noise from additional traffic
- Noise wall mitigation